

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 638

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to commend and thank W. Jeff Reynolds for his years of exemplary public service with the State of Tennessee and with the Government of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, W. Jeff Reynolds is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Reynolds earned a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from East Texas Baptist College and a Master's degree in Sociology from Stephen F. Austin State University; he served as an Instructor in Sociology at Thiel College in Greenville, Pennsylvania from 1969-1972 and a Visiting Instructor in Criminal Justice at Tennessee State University in the summer of 1973; from 1975-1977 at Vanderbilt University, he served as a Visiting Instructor in Sociology and Research Associate and Consultant for the Health Care Evaluation Project; and

WHEREAS, in August 1977, Mr. Reynolds went to work in the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury for the State of Tennessee, first serving as Program Auditor, then Manager and finally as Chief of Program Evaluation in the Division of State Audit, in which position, he managed "Sunset" Program evaluations and other performance audits of state agencies; from

October of 1981 through January, 1982, he served as Staff Assistant to the Comptroller, acting as the Principal Policy Assistant, representing the Comptroller on state boards and commissions, and providing budget and other financial information to the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Reynolds served as Principal Staff to the Legislative Tax Study Committee during 1984-1985 and the Corrections Oversight Committee during 1985-1986; after taking a break from February-March of 1987 to serve as Deputy Commissioner of Employment Security and as Special Assistant to the Governor for Corrections Capital Projects from April through July of 1987, he served as Executive Assistant to the Comptroller from August, 1987 through January, 1989, assisting in the management of the Comptroller's responsibilities, the management of state debt, and statewide property assessment, in addition to the duties he had performed as Staff Assistant; and

WHEREAS, in February ,1989, Mr. Reynolds was appointed Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Correction, serving until November,1992; as Commissioner, he worked to bring the Department of Correction from under the Grubbs Lawsuit and the 1985 Federal Court Order mandating improved inmate living conditions and relief of overcrowding. He was instrumental in the enactment of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1989 and the State and Local Correction Reform Act of 1989, implemented a regional administrative structure for the Department and the unit management concept, and oversaw the certification process for the Inmate Grievance Procedure; and

WHEREAS, during his exemplary service as Commissioner, Jeff Reynolds opened six new prisons, including two new high security facilities and the state's first special needs facility, all on schedule and under budget, while also achieving professional accreditation for the probation program and 16 institutions; he also created a "Boot Camp" for non-violent offenders and entered into the first contract to privatize a major adult correction facility in Tennessee, along with managing 20 prisons, statewide probation, and a grant program funding 16 community corrections providers in 93 counties; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reynolds was appointed Executive Director of the Tennessee Housing Development Agency in December of 1992, and served through January, 2000, a longer tenure than any of his predecessors; during his tenure, THDA provided nearly 23,000 mortgages worth approximately \$1.3 billion for low and moderate income Tennesseans, established a record for one-year mortgage production committing over 6,000 loans for over \$450 million during 1999, and administered programs putting forth \$1.7 billion to help 94,000 Tennesseans have safe, affordable and decent homes; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Reynolds formed a partnership with the Mid-America Habitat for Humanity, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board of Cincinnati, Union Planters Bank and the General Assembly to build 99 houses for very low income Tennesseans in each of the representative districts in the House of Representatives of the Tennessee General Assembly; he also created the Housing Research Center at THDA and received national recognition for the Bicentennial Neighborhoods Initiative and a Community Partners Award from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati for establishing innovative programs for community living opportunities for the developmentally-disabled; and

WHEREAS, since February, 2000, Mr. Reynolds has served with distinction as Director of the Division of Affordable Housing, Office of the Mayor, Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County; as Director, he has actively worked to implement the Mayor's policy initiative to increase the availability of affordable housing in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Reynolds has created Home Ownership for Metro Employees (HoME), to provide downpayment assistance for Metro employees buying their first home; Home Ownership Preservation Effort (HoPE), which provides grant funds to create a rehabilitation program using volunteer labor; and a Rental Preservation Program to rehabilitate existing affordable rental housing; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reynolds has also contributed his time and considerable abilities to service on the Boards of Directors of the Tennessee Housing Development Agency, the National Council of State Housing Boards, the Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity, the

Nashville Homestead Corporation, and the Nashville Rebuilding Together-Christmas in April, as well as to the Housing Advisory Committee of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati and the Advisory Committee of the FannieMae Tennessee Partnership Office; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Reynold's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and the uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, as demonstrated by his record of meritorious service to the State of Tennessee and Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Mr. Reynolds epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional and dedicated public servant; he is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby commend W. Jeff Reynolds for his honorable and astute service to the citizens of Tennessee and the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, and offer him our best wishes for every future success in his new career as Vice President of Housing and Community Investment for the Federal Home Loan Bank in Cincinnati, Ohio.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.